

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse

other names/site number N/A

**2. Location**

street & number 4216 Countryside Lane

not for publication N/A

city or town Lower Saucon Township

vicinity N/A

state Pennsylvania code PA county Northampton code 095 zip code 18015

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this \_\_\_\_ nomination \_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_\_ statewide \_\_\_\_ locally. (\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.  
(\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

\_\_\_\_ entered in the National Register

\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register

\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register

\_\_\_\_ removed from the National Register

\_\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>		buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district			sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site			structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure			Objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object			Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>EDUCATION: School</u>	<u>RECREATION AND CULTURE: Museum</u>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>LATE VICTORIAN</u>	Foundation <u>stone</u>
<u>Other: One-room Schoolhouse</u>	walls <u>stone</u>
	Roof <u>slate</u>
	Other

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey  
# \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record  
# \_\_\_\_\_

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

C. Architecture

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Period of Significance

1880—1958

### Significant Dates

1880

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect / Builder

N/A

### Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☒ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Lower Saucon Township

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## 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of Property** approximately 1 acre

**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18 476315	4497140	3		
2			4		

See continuation sheet.

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Robert J. Wise Jr., Principal, Seth Hinshaw, Sr. Planner

organization Wise Preservation Planning date 4/1/2008

street & number 1480 Hilltop Road telephone (484) 202-8187

city or town Chester Springs state Pa. zip code 19425

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## Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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## Property Owner

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Lower Saucon Township

street & number 3700 Old Philadelphia Pike telephone (610) 865-3291

city or town Bethlehem state PA zip code 18015

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to Keeper, National Register of Historic Places, 1849 "C" Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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Section 7 Page 1

Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse

Name of property

Northampton County, Pennsylvania

County and State

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The Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse is a one-story, one-room rectangular stone former schoolhouse with a belfry. The only intact 19<sup>th</sup> century schoolhouse in Lower Saucon Township, the schoolhouse is architecturally intact on both the exterior and interior. The school's period furnishings augment this integrity, such that today it is a museum. It sits on an open acre of land at 1216 Countryside Lane in Lower Saucon Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. The property is just north of the intersection of Countryside Lane and Limpar Lane in the northeast corner of the Township. The parcel slopes downward in the north or rear of the property; it appears much as it did following the construction of the schoolhouse. The surrounding landscape is mainly hilly, rural farmland.

**Schoolhouse – Exterior**

The Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse is a one-story, three-bay, front-end gabled Late Victorian style building facing generally southsouthwest. It is a typical mid-to-late 19<sup>th</sup> century schoolhouse. It features a prominent belfry over the main entrance and a rectangular footprint measuring 32'x38'. Its gabled roof is clad with rectangular slate shingles and has a molded cornice with returns on the end walls. The belfry is located near the front (south) end; it is a square element with a low pyramidal roof capped with a simple weathervane and featuring louvers on the walls around an interior bell. A small brick chimney is located near the northeast end of the ridge.

The walls of the schoolhouse are rubble stone. The main elevation has two 9x6 double hung windows with lip lintels and sills, flanking the entrance porch. Two 4-light attic windows flank a datestone reading "Franklin School, Rebuilt 1880." The datestone, which also features quarter-circles in its corners, is centered over the entry porch. The porch, added in 1901, consists of a slate-clad shed roof featuring ovolo-shaped, exposed rafter tails. The porch roof is supported on the southwest end by four Queen Anne spindle-like posts attached by gingerbread brackets and two half-posts adjacent to the wall surface. The porch has a rubble stone foundation. [Note: During recent renovation work, it was discovered that the original stone steps remain in place under the porch.] The main entrance on the porch consists of a two-light transom over a four-paneled wooden door. The door has two arched-headed upper panels over two smaller lower panels; all panels feature thick Italianate molding.

The side walls of the schoolhouse have four original 9x6 double hung windows with three-paneled shutters, arranged symmetrically. Most shutters retain their original hardware, including holdbacks, bolts, and eyes. The side walls and northeast end wall

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have basement windows: one on the northwest façade and two each on the northeast end wall and the southeast side.

**Interior – School Room**

The interior consists of a single intact classroom on the main floor. An attic and basement, both unfinished, complete the interior. The schoolhouse does not have interior bathrooms or coatrooms. Most interior fabric is historic if not original, including the windows, shades, blackboard, and flooring. Other interior elements, such as the pictures on the wall, schoolbooks, and closets, are remnants from the school days but may not date to the time of construction.

The one-room school space is remarkably intact, with the original school desks occupying the center of the room, facing the blackboard, original heater, and teacher's desk. The ceiling and walls are plastered, with wainscoting extending up four feet along the walls. The 12-foot high ceiling is hung from the rafters, which provides a clearspan school room without the need for interior columns. The blackboard along the north (front) wall extends across most of the wall surface. Built-in closets are located in the corners flanking the blackboard. Corner cabinets on the opposite wall were installed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The room has narrow wood flooring running east to west.

The front of the room is the location of the original stove and the teacher's desk. The stove is a cast iron "Buffalo Fresh Air Heater" which sits inside a metal cover intended to prevent students from touching the hot surface (a common element in one room schools). Original tools used for stoking the stove hang on hooks in the wall behind the stove. The original school furniture remains in place. The teacher's desk near the northeast corner of the room has a slanted top over three drawers. Two long recitation benches in front of the blackboard divide the students' seating area from the front of the room. The recitation benches are long benches with high backs and cast iron legs. The benches and desks are bolted onto runners, which provide bracing and make them easy to move. Behind the recitation benches are five rows of school desks. The desks are arranged with the smaller desks to the west (near the heater) and the larger ones to the east. Their hinged desktops have a groove for holding pencils and holes for inkwells. Many cast iron frames of the desks include information on the different manufacturers. The desks are period furniture of the school.

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**Attic**

The attic is reached by a ceiling hatch located above the classroom entrance. It is an unfinished space, with exposed rafters and plank flooring. The attic has 18 3"x5" rafters nailed together at the tip without a ridge board. The rafters are connected by collar beams which are pegged into the rafters. On the north end, the brick chimney appears to have been rebuilt in kind in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The main structural feature of the attic is a large A-frame truss designed to support the classroom ceiling and thus produce a freespan classroom space below. The truss consists of two angled braces attached at the tip just under the ridge; an iron pole connected to the junction of the two timber braces is attached at the base to the attic's summer beam. The attic floor is wide, random width hardwood planks.

A second truss system supports the weight of the bell in the belfry. A heavy summer beam-like horizontal timber spans the breadth of the attic space near the front (south) wall. Two heavy horizontal timbers span the distance between the stone side walls and the heavy timber to support the belfry's framing system. Two heavy angled timbers are anchored into the heavy horizontal timber and are attached at the tips to an iron pin, which in turn is attached to the timber. A moveable ladder resting along the south wall of the attic is used to access the belfry and bell.

**Basement**

The basement is accessed through a trap door in the floor just east of the classroom entrance (under a moveable glass display cabinet). Rebuilt steps (late 20<sup>th</sup> century) lead down to the east. A stone wall running the length of the building divides the basement into two narrow spaces; a doorway five feet in width is located near the center of the stone partition wall. Fifteen joists run from the partition wall to the end walls, supporting the flooring above; some joists are rough-hewn, while others are later, sawn joists (historic but not original). The joists are 5'6" above the gravel basement floor.

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### Statement of Significance

The Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse is locally significant under National Register Criterion C as a rural schoolhouse reflecting the changing educational architectural trends of the time. The building, constructed in 1880, is a remarkably intact one-room stone schoolhouse. It reflects how the local school board responded to changes in state legislation and county oversight, down to the design details of the school. Its overall plan and design elements and furnishings reflect educational currents of the beginning of the "Progressive era" of educational history, when Lower Saucon Township rebuilt nearly half of its schoolhouses. The Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse is owned by Lower Saucon Township and is operated as an educational museum by the Lower Saucon Township Historical Society. Its period of significance begins with its construction in 1880 and extends past the addition of the last character-defining change (the addition of the current front porch in 1901) to the closing of the school in 1958.

#### First Schoolhouse 1740-1827 (Lutz School)

The first schoolhouse at this location was actually a log-built house of worship constructed for the "Congregation of the Augsburg Confession in Saucon." This Lutheran congregation was formed by Palatinate immigrants around 1740. The congregation worshipped there until it merged with a congregation later named the Old Williams Church in 1756, and became part of Frieden's Church when it was organized in 1793. The original log schoolhouse/house of worship continued in use as the local Lutheran school after the consolidation of the churches. The building was located on a 156-acre farm owned by William Allen, who sold the farm to Benedict Lutz in 1768.

In 1783, Benedict Lutz (1735-1818) sold the building on one acre to three school trustees.<sup>1</sup> The deed stated that the property was sold "To the only proper use and Behoof of the Inhabitants of Lower Saucon and Williams Townships aforesaid Professing the Lutheran and Evangelical Reformed Religion for the use of a School and School master (and to no other use whatsoever)." Lutz sold the property to four "Trustees on Behalf of the Inhabitants of Lower Saucon and Williams Townships

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<sup>1</sup> The original deed is located in the Lower Saucon Township Historical Society collection. The deed pre-dates the American Revolution, as it begins with a reference to King George of England, lined out before the deed was recorded. The original date of the deed is erased and replaced in different handwriting with "1783."



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aforesaid professing the Lutheran and Evangelical Reformed Religions.” All four men were associated with the Lutheran congregation formerly worshipping in the log building. The schoolhouse was part of a network of Lutheran schools in Northampton County. The schoolhouses on the property were used for Sunday School on weekends.<sup>2</sup>

**Second Schoolhouse 1827-1880 (Franklin School)**

In 1826, Township voters elected a public school board to oversee the school in the “Lutzes schoolhouse,” according to the certificate of election stored in the Lower Saucon Township Historical Society collection. The new school board opened a public school and re-built the schoolhouse. The old German name of “Lutz School” was changed to “Franklin School.” The shift away from a private German religious school and the re-naming of the building for Benjamin Franklin may have been associated with the romanticism of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

First, the school board replaced the former Lutheran private religious school with a public school. It is not known if the earlier Lutheran School had already closed; similar shifts from private religious schools to public schools took place throughout the Commonwealth in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The shift *preceded* the Free Public School Act of 1834, which passed over the opposition of German-speaking members of the legislature who feared that the schools would suppress German culture. A provision in the act allowed schools to be taught in German for families speaking that language at home. The German schools in Northampton County quickly made the shift from religious-sponsored to public school; by 1840, public schools were available for all children in Northampton County.<sup>3</sup>

The second important step taken by the school board was demolishing the earlier schoolhouse and building a new one. It contracted with John Chrisman to conduct the

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<sup>2</sup> Karen Samuels, “Hartzels Linked to Township History,” undated article; Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse Pa. Historic Resource Survey Form; Ethel I. Helms, “Historical Background of the Lutz Franklin School.”

<sup>3</sup> *Two Hundred Years of Life in Northampton County, Pa.*, volume 6: “Basic Education in Northampton County,” (Easton PA: Northampton County Bicentennial Commission, 1976), p. 32. For more information on local tensions regarding the shift, see Deborah Hartwell, “History of Education in Saucon Valley,” undated mss.

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work. In some of his receipts for completed work, dated 1827, Chrisman stated that the work was being done “for the frank lin Shoul hous.” This is the oldest extant reference to the school as Franklin School. The second schoolhouse is thought to have been a polygonal-shaped stone building with a chimney in the center of the roof. It is believed to have been located southwest of the current building, near the property’s entrance, where some minor historic fabric have been discovered from time to time. Local historians report the schoolhouse burned in 1879.<sup>4</sup>

**Third Schoolhouse 1880-Present (Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse)**

The current schoolhouse was constructed in 1880 (datestone). The remaining 1827 schoolhouse fabric was dismantled; its stone was used to build the foundation and lower wall sections of the current building. The stone from the earlier schoolhouse is darker than the stonework forming the upper portion of the walls. When finished, the new Franklin School was similar in appearance to many other late 19<sup>th</sup> century schoolhouses in Lower Saucon Township. The only major alteration to the building took place in 1901 when the current porch was built (according to the school board minutes).

The Franklin School was a one-teacher school. Students sat at their desks, arranged by age. In an orderly rotation, students from each grade were called to the front recitation bench, where students would stand alone to answer questions about the day’s lessons. The remaining students would study until that grade was called forward. The teacher appointed students to manage the heater and clean the building. The local school board decided when classes began, though each school was required to be in session a minimum of six hours a day. The school term lasted for six months.<sup>5</sup>

Grades 1 through 8 were held in the school until 1942. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the school had an average of 40 students. In 1942, the school closed for ten years. In 1952, the school district re-opened the Franklin School as a school for 4<sup>th</sup> grade students in the township. A student who kept a scrapbook of school events recorded

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<sup>4</sup> Membership brochure, Lower Saucon Township Historical Society; Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse survey form. No historic evidence appears to substantiate the local folklore that the 1827 building was polygonal in shape. It appears that in Lower Saucon, octagonal and hexagonal shapes dominated schoolhouse construction until the Public School Law of 1854. Due to the loss of the school board minutes, no contemporary document substantiates the local tradition that the 1827 schoolhouse burned in 1879.

<sup>5</sup> Lower Saucon School Board minutes, 1888-1895, passim.

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that the school board had electricity installed in 1952.<sup>6</sup> In 1958, the school district closed all of its one-room schoolhouses. The school remained vacant for several decades. In 2003, after a proposal to move the building to the current school campus failed to materialize, the school district decided to sell the building. Since the earlier Lutheran school trustees never transferred the title of the property to the public schools, the school district and the Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church served as the Grantor, selling the property to Lower Saucon Township. The Lower Saucon Township Historical Society restored the building in 2004-2006 and now operates it as an educational museum.<sup>7</sup>

**Significance**

The Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse was constructed at the time when Northampton County's school system was shifting from the earlier "common school era" (1818-1867) into the "progressive period" of educational history (1867-1930). Today the school's architectural features reflect these changes, while its remarkable integrity, both inside and out, make evident its nearly 75 years as an educational institution. In the "common school era," small schoolhouses were constructed in rural areas without assigning the students to different grades. The first step towards the progressive educational era was the Pennsylvania Common School Law of 1854, which established the "Lancastrian" system of assigning students to grades. The following year, the Commonwealth published a guidebook to assist with the construction of schoolhouses. In 1874, the state passed an act increasing the borrowing capacity of school districts, making it possible to construct larger schoolhouses. During the 1870s and 1880s, Northampton County upgraded its educational system in terms of teacher certification and buildings. Northampton County Superintendent of the Public Schools B.F. Raesly was particularly influential; the Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse reflected his influence. While the Lutz-Franklin School incorporated the state-recommended changes, it also included local considerations devised by Raesly.

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<sup>6</sup> Sterling D. Weikheiser, a student during the school year 1952-1953, kept a scrapbook with events of the week. He mentioned the opening of the school again, the introduction of electricity, and other school-related activities. His scrapbook is in the Historical Society archives.

<sup>7</sup> Katie Bombico, "Restoration Stirs Memories of Former Students," printed in the *Express-Times* on 6/12/2006.

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The Pennsylvania Common School Law of 1854<sup>8</sup> codified changes of the previous two decades and introduced new challenges. With this act, Pennsylvania adopted the “Lancastrian” system, in which students were assigned to grades using grade-specific textbooks for each subject. Soon after the passage of the law, educational leaders held a conference in Harrisburg, Pa. to discuss the construction of schoolhouses to incorporate the new legislation. The results of the conference were reproduced in the book *Pennsylvania School Architecture: A Manual of Directions and Plans for Grading, Locating, Constructing, Heating, Ventilating, and Furnishing Common School Houses*.<sup>9</sup> The book provided schoolhouse plans which were used until the 1870s and sets forth the standards being refined when the Lutz-Franklin School was built. It recommended rectangular one-room or two-room buildings. The plan for “an ungraded or primary rural school” provided the dominant mode of rural schoolhouse design for the following two decades. The book recommended symmetrical exteriors with masonry walls, large windows, and a full cellar. The entrance, often a double door, opens on the south elevation into a lobby flanked by coat rooms (one for the boys and one for the girls). Many schools had a raised floor area at the front of the room. This raised area was the location of the teacher’s desk, the blackboard, and included the more visible recitation area. Desks occupied the majority of the room between the rear door and the raised flooring. The desks, mostly for two students each, were arranged in rows facing the blackboard. The plans locate the stove (heating furnace) behind the desks. The book stated that the east and west side walls should have many windows, but none on the north wall (location of the blackboard) and the south wall (location of the entrance).<sup>10</sup>

Many schoolhouses constructed in Lower Saucon Township followed the design recommendations of the *Pennsylvania School Architecture* (PSA) book. One such school is the Southeastern School on Hellertown-Ironville Road (1859). The one-story, three-bay stone building had a rectangular shape to accommodate a larger space for desks and a larger blackboard than the earlier polygonal buildings found throughout the township, per the guidelines found in PSA. It also featured a belfry and spire over a

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<sup>8</sup> The act was known as the Pennsylvania’s Common School Law of 1854, not to be confused with the Public School Law of 1834 which established the common school system.

<sup>9</sup> Thomas H. Burrowes, *Pennsylvania School Architecture: A Manual of Directions and Plans for Grading, Locating, Constructing, Heating, Ventilating, and Furnishing Common School Houses* (Harrisburg: A. Boyd Hamilton, 1855). Designs for “ungraded rural schools” are found on pages 30 and 31.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 30.

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pointed arch attic window over the front porch. The Southeastern School, like most one-room schoolhouses in the township, has since been converted to a residence.

The man mostly likely responsible for the rebuilding of the Franklin School was B.F. Rasely, who served as Northampton County Superintendent of Public Instruction in the late 1870s. Rasely was responsible for keeping abreast of educational trends. He visited each school, evaluated the facilities, assessed the teachers, examined the educational approaches and textbooks, and sponsored a summer teacher "institute" for training. He coordinated policy between the local school boards and the Pennsylvania Superintendent of Public Instruction. His annual reports were printed as part of the state educational reports in even-numbered years.<sup>11</sup>

During his tenure, Raesly took advantage of new state legislation to build many new schoolhouses in Northampton County, including three in Lower Saucon Township. A major change in state educational legislation in 1874 enabled school districts to borrow larger sums of money for constructing schoolhouses.<sup>12</sup> Raesly's first two schools in Lower Saucon Township were the United and Wassergass Schools, built in 1879 on newly acquired lots. Both were one-story, front-end-gabled masonry buildings that have now been converted to private residences.<sup>13</sup> The Wassergass School featured a chimney near the front of the schoolhouse, a design element from the 1855 book *Pennsylvania School Architecture* which is not found on later schoolhouses.

In his reports to Harrisburg, Raesly frequently discussed "prominent features in our educational progress," many of which are reflected in the design of the Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse:

1. Raesly had a particular interest in fresh air for students and discussed the subject in several reports. In his report of 1880, Raesly declared 47 of the 205

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<sup>11</sup> Report of the Northampton County Superintendent of Public Instruction, included in the *Annual Report of the [Pennsylvania] Superintendent of Public Instruction*, various years but particularly the 1880 annual report, pp. 136-137.

<sup>12</sup> Isaac Doughton, *Evolution of the Public School Bonded Debt of Pennsylvania* (Philadelphia: 1925), pp. 13-14, 46.

<sup>13</sup> Photographs of these schools in the Lower Saucon Township Historical Society collection were printed in the book *Images of America: Lower Saucon Township* (Charleston SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2005), pp. 97-118.

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schoolhouses in Northampton County were “badly ventilated.” He believed that “impure” air would rise and be trapped along the ceiling in the school room. Raesly advocated tall double hung windows with a moveable upper sash to allow stale air to escape at the top while fresh air entered at the bottom. Given his concerns, it is notable that the heater in the Franklin Schoolhouse is a “Buffalo Fresh Air Heater.”

2. Raesly complained of the expense of constructing a raised floor area or stage at the front of school rooms (which he called the “platform”). He “saw no advantage gained” by these platforms, calling them “an obstacle to teacher and pupils” and an “unnecessary expense.”
3. Raesly advocated installing blackboards lower to the floor to allow younger students to write their exercises on the blackboard.
4. Raesly sought to eliminate paired desks in favor of single desks. He was particularly interested in desks that were comfortable for the students.

In addition to school design, another key aspect of the “progressive era” of education was the professionalization of the teaching profession. Here again, Raesly appeared to have been heavily influenced by these reforms, which were later incorporated into the county school system. Raesly conducted annual teacher “institutes” in the county.<sup>14</sup> All teachers in the county were required to attend these conferences. Raesly brought college professors and other public speakers to instruct teachers on teaching methods and increasing knowledge or various fields of study. The institutes certified teachers in the various subjects. Raesly and his successor initiated a pay scale based on the number of subjects the teachers were certified to teach. (By 1889, teacher pay ranged from \$3,300 per year for teachers with no certifications to \$4,500 per year for a fully-certified teacher.<sup>15</sup>) In 1879, Raesly required teachers to bring their report books to the monthly school board sessions so the board could review the progress of the students.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> It is possible that Raesly held the first institute in Northampton County, as the Hellertown School Board minutes of 7/2/1877 discussed institutes but indicated none had been held at that time. Most details of this paragraph come from his annual reports.

<sup>15</sup> Lower Saucon School Board minutes, 1888-1895. No school board minute books are known to exist before 1888 for Lower Saucon, but the minute books of the nearby Hellertown School District were consulted for 1872-1898.

<sup>16</sup> Hellertown School Board minutes, 8/11/1879.

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The Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse is the only intact schoolhouse remaining from the first 25 years of the “progressive era” of education in Lower Saucon Township. Eight schools constructed during this quarter of a century represent the shift from the earlier one-room schoolhouses of the “common school era” to the “progressive era” of education, characterized by larger one-story, three-bay stone front-end-gabled masonry buildings often featuring a belfry and spire and a clear span classroom. Of Lower Saucon Township’s eight “progressive era” schoolhouses, two have been demolished; one is a fire hall headquarters; and four have been converted into residences. Only the Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse retains its fully-equipped interior with period furnishings. Its interior details reflect the expectations of the early years of the “progressive era” as interpreted by B.F. Rasely. Tall, double-hung sash windows allowed “stale” air to escape, while the room was heated by a “fresh air heater.” The classroom features single desks facing the long, low blackboard, with no platform along the front wall. These design elements, dating to the very early 1880s, convey a sense of educational expectations of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century in a rural Pennsylvania community. The school, now a museum, continues to be used for educational purposes.

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary is the same as the tax parcel. This has been the location of the schoolhouse for 240 years.

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## Photographs

All photographs enclosed with this nomination were taken on April 27, 2007 by Robert Wise of Wise Preservation Planning. The following are captions to the photographs.

Photo #	Description
1	Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse, facing north.
2	Schoolhouse, main elevation, facing northeast.
3	Schoolhouse, facing east.
4	Schoolhouse, rear elevation, facing southwest. The east (left) and north (right) elevations are visible.
5	Front porch of schoolhouse. Note the Queen Anne detailing.
6	Datestone of schoolhouse, main elevation.
7	View of school room from the entrance, facing northeast. Note the increasing size of desks to the right.
8	School room, facing southwest from the blackboard.
9	School room, facing northwest from the teacher's desk towards the stove.
10	Buffalo Fresh Air Heater, the original heating system for the schoolhouse.
11	View of the framing system in the attic. The diagonal visible here is one of the A-frame trusses in the attic supporting the ceiling of the school room.

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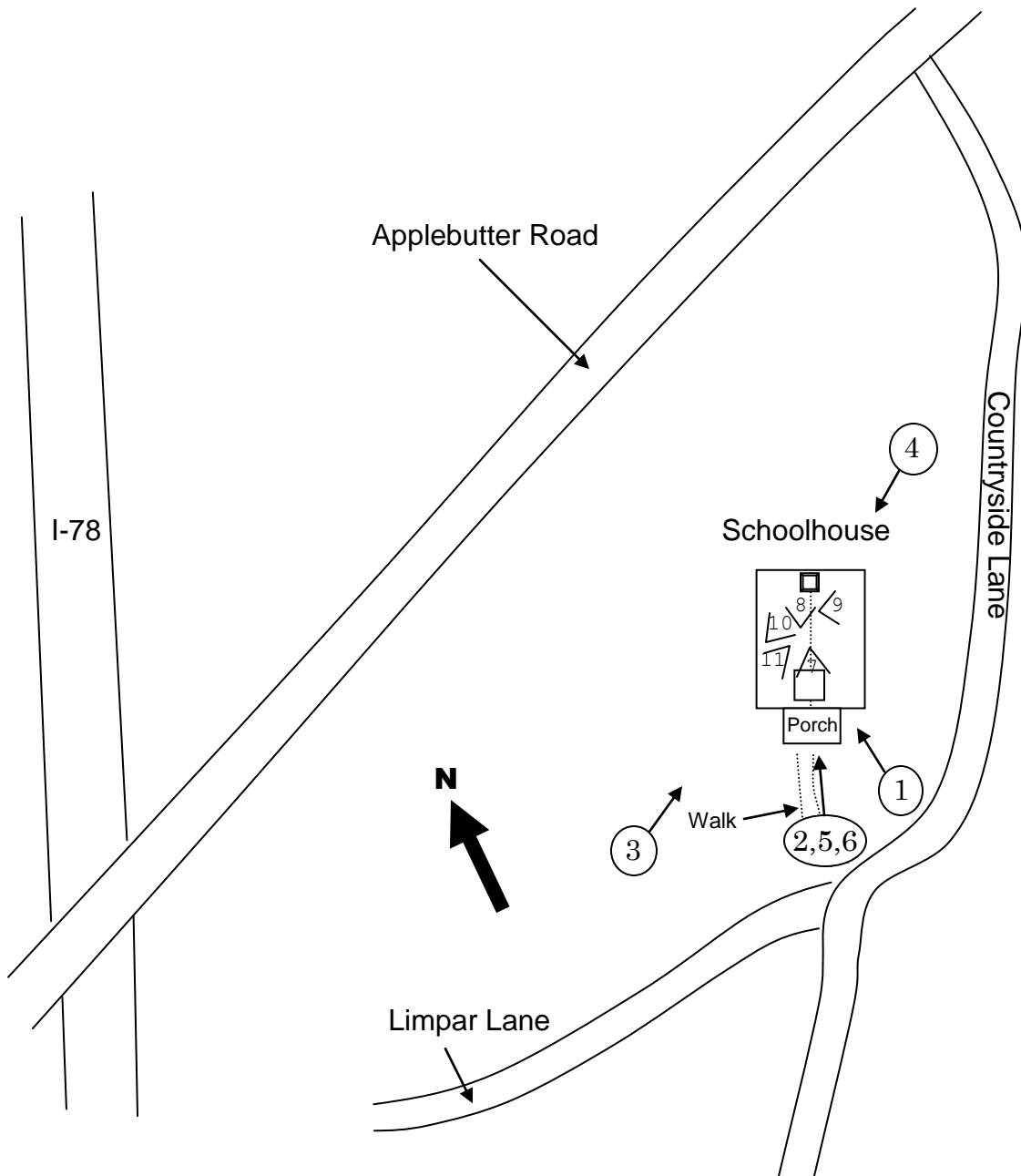
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Map 1. Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse sketch map. Numbers indicate camera angles.

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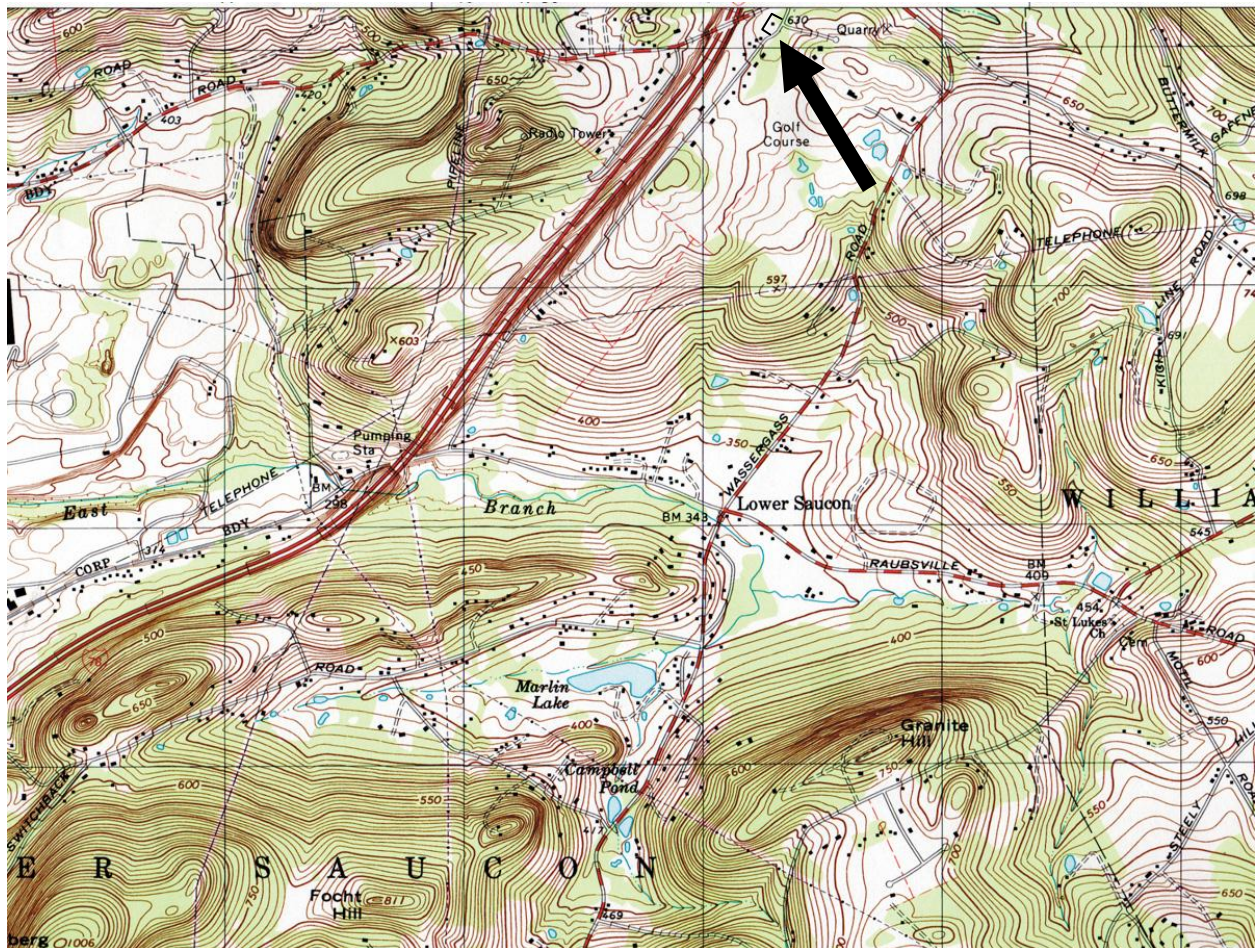
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Map 2. U.S.G.S. Quad Map, Hellertown Quad (1999).

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Map 3. Detail of tax parcel map.

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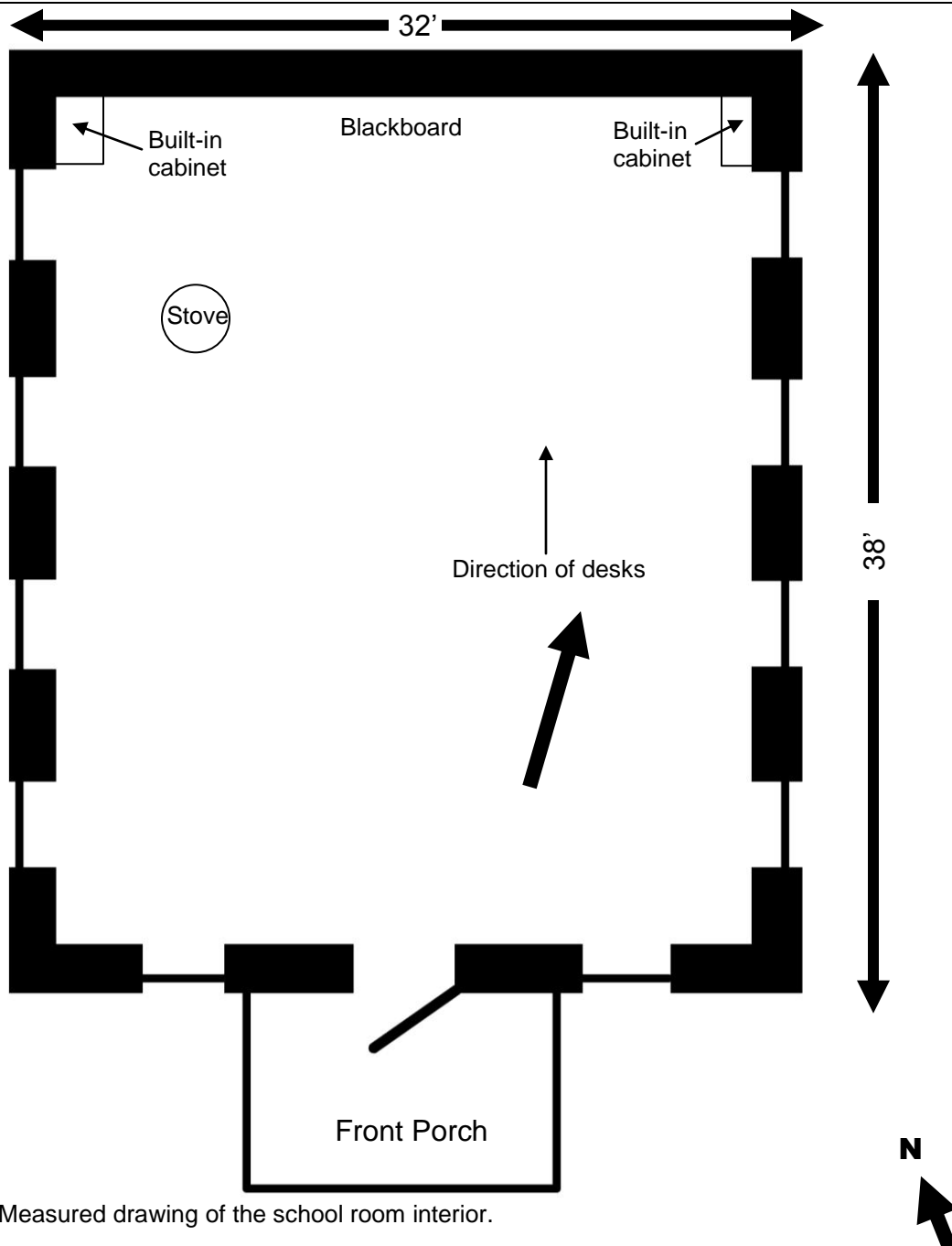
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Map 4. Measured drawing of the school room interior.



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Map 5. Detail of Lower Saucon Township, D. G. Beers, *Atlas of Northampton County, Pennsylvania* (A. Pomeroy & Co., 1874). Note that the map shows the earlier school building.



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